



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOVEMBER 2004 ELECTIONS

United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan announced today that Assistant United States Attorney Michael A. Schwartz will serve as District Election Officer for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the upcoming November 2, 2004 elections.

Two years ago, in October of 2002, Attorney General Ashcroft established a Department-wide Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative. The goals of this Initiative are to increase the Department's ability to deter election fraud and discrimination at the polls and to prosecute these offenses whenever and wherever they occur - to make voting easier and cheating harder. Both goals are equally important. It is imperative that in pursuing voter integrity, ballot access is not in any way diminished or harmed. The Department's long-standing Election Day Program furthers the goals of the Initiative. The Program also is intended to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact within the Department where the public can report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open on election day. The franchise is the cornerstone of American democracy. We all must ensure that those who are entitled to the franchise exercise it, while those who seek to corrupt it are brought to justice.

AUSA Schwartz will supervise the investigation and prosecution of election fraud matters in this District and coordinate the District's efforts with Department of Justice prosecutors in Washington, DC. As part of his responsibilities as District Election Officer, AUSA Schwartz will be on duty in this District on election day to receive complaints of election fraud. AUSA Schwartz can be reached by the public at the following telephone number: 215-861-8200.

The FBI also will have Special Agents available in each field office and resident agency in this District to receive allegations of election fraud on election day. The FBI can be reached by the public at: 215-418-4000. Federal agents, however, cannot by law be present at polling places.

The District Attorneys' Offices also will be available to address complaints of election law violations: in Berks County, call 610-478-6000; in Bucks County, call 215-348-6344; in Chester County, call 610-692-5100; in Delaware County, call 610-891-4161; in Lancaster County, call 717-299-8100; in Lehigh County, call 610-782-3100; in Montgomery County, call 610-278-3090; in Northampton County, call 610-559-3020; and in Philadelphia, call 215-686-8730, 8768, 8783, and/or 8932.